

Message Text

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NESCO

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TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: REPORT ON DISCUSSIONS BY UNESCO 97TH
EXECUTIVE BOARD'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE, AGENDA
ITEM 5.1: UNESCO PROGRAM AND PLANNING PROCESS

REF: PARIS 09992

1. SUMMARY. SPECIAL COMMITTEE HELD TWO DAY DISCUSSION (APRIL 22 - 23) OF AGENDA ITEM 5.1, DOCUMENT 97 EX/14, ON ISSUES POSED BY DG RE PREPARING SIX YEAR PLAN FOR 1977-1982 AND 19 C/5 DOCUMENT. THIS ONE OF MORE IMPORTANT TOPICS BEFORE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND 97TH EXBD. DEPUTY PERMREP PRESENTED US VIEWS ON NINETEEN QUESTIONS POSED BY DG AS LAID OUT IN REFTEL. END OF SUMMARY.

2. US POINTS WERE RATHER MORE DETAILED AND MORE PRECISE THAN THOSE OF MANY SPEAKERS. NO GREAT DIVERGENCIES OF OPINIONS DEVELOPED BETWEEN SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS. IN GENERAL THERE APPEARS TO BE FAIRLY BROAD CONSENSUS REGARDING PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING VIEWS. ESPECIALLY FRANCE, USSR AND US WERE IN AGREEMENT ON MOST ITEMS AND WE EACH COULD ALMOST HAVE TRADED TALKING POINTS AND BEEN AT EASE WITH EACH OTHER'S POSITIONS.

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3. BASICALLY, SPECIAL COMMITTEE REAFFIRMED THAT PROVISIONS OF 18 GC RESOLUTION 10.1 ARE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PREPARING THE 1977-82 MEDIUM TERM PLAN AND THE 19 C/5 DOCUMENT. THIS INCLUDES THE SELECTION OF THIRTY-SEVEN OBJECTIVES LAID OUT IN ANNEX TO 18 RES. 10.1; THE SELECTION OF THE SEVENTEEN PRIORITY OBJECTIVES IDENTIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 12 OF 18 RES. 10.1; AND SEEKING TO INCORPORATE ATTENTION TO FOUR NEW MATTERS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 13 OF 18 RES. 10.1 WITHIN ABOVE BODY OF APPROVED OBJECTIVES. ALSO SPECIAL COMMITTEE GENERALLY AGREED WITH INTERPRETATIONS BY DG IN 97 EX/14, WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT MANDATE OF 18 RES. 10.1 WAS CLEAR AND OVERRIDING.

4. MOST SPEAKERS FELT THAT TIME HAS NOW COME TO MOVE MORE FORCIBLY TO PROGRAMMING BY OBJECTIVES WITH ITS CONSEQUENT IMPLICATION OF MANAGING BY OBJECTIVES. ALSO THERE APPEARS TO BE GENERAL DISPOSITION TO SEE A NEW TYPE OF C/5 DOCUMENT WHICH REFLECTS THIS CHANGE. THE 19 C/5 WILL MOST LIKELY BE A TRANSITION DOCUMENT WITH SOME FEATURES OF THE TRADITIONAL APPROACH AND SOME FEATURES OF THE NEW APPROACH.

5. THERE IS STILL SOME FEAR ON PART OF SOME SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND SOME SECRETARIAT STAFF, INCLUDING SOME FAIRLY HIGH LEVEL STAFF, ON TRYING TO QUANTIFY OR HAVE OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS FOR UNESCO'S GOALS, AIMS AND TARGETS. HOWEVER, WE FIND THAT EACH TIME THE ISSUE COMES UP FOR DISCUSSION, MOVEMENT TAKES PLACE IN THAT DIRECTION AND TOWARDS GREATER PRECISION OF DEFINITIONS.

6. DG'S CONSULTATION PROCEDURE WITH MEMBER STATES, EX BD AND NGO'S AND OTHER BODIES WAS SUBJECT OF EXTENSIVE DEBATE. SOME SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXPRESSED THEIR DOUBTS ABOUT UTILITY OF THIS SOMEWHAT CUMBERSOME PROCEDURE, BUT ALL WERE IN AGREEMENT THAT THE NEW DG OUGHT TO BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIMENT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE HIS STATED GOAL OF "HONEST CONSULTATION" AND "OPEN DIALOGUE."

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7. IN SUMMARY, WE TEND TO BE SATISFIED WITH DISCUSSIONS THIS ITEM AT SPECIAL COMMITTEE SO FAR, AND CONTINUE TO FEEL DG IS MOVING TO ADOPT BETTER PROGRAMS, BETTER ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION AND BETTER MANAGEMENT PROCESSES.

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